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A.—Under the existing rules, all supply for irrigation and seed-beds under the Red Hills Tank is cut off when water falls to + 38 00 or lower. In the interests of water-supply to the City of Madras, water cannot be allowed to be drawn off for irrigation from a lower level. In view of the increased demand in the City for the supply of water, a proposal to raise the level, below which the draw-off for irrigation should be stopped, to + 39·50, and at the same time to raise the F. T. L. of the tank by 1½ feet, is under the consideration of the Government.

Election and nomination of members to the Negapatam Municipal Council.

396 *Q.*—Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there are two elected members in the Negapatam Municipal Council connected directly or indirectly with Messrs. Madura Company, Ltd., Negapatam;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that one Venkatachalam, who was nominated by the Government as a councillor, is also connected with Messrs. Madura Company, Ltd., Negapatam;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that another individual belonging to the same company is or about to be appointed by the Government as a councillor; and

(*d*) what the reasons are, if any, for the appointments of so many individuals from one and the same firm contrary to the provisions of section 49, clause 2 (vi) of Madras Act V of 1920?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) The Government have no such intention at present.

(*d*) Such appointments would not be contrary to the provisions of section 49 (2) (vi) of the District Municipalities Act.

Civil Surgeon of Negapatam.

397 *Q.*—Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Council of Negapatam passed a unanimous resolution on 4th January 1921 affirming the unpopularity of the present civil surgeon of Negapatam and requesting the Government to transfer the said gentleman from Negapatam; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he was under orders of transfer and that Dr. Verghese from Bellary was posted in his stead, and, if so, the reasons for not giving effect to that order?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) The present civil surgeon, Dr. Iswarayya, applied for leave early this year. He was granted the leave and Dr. Verghese was posted in his stead. Dr. Iswarayya has not, however, been able to avail himself of the leave till now.

Nomination of the Civil Surgeon to the Negapatam Municipal Council.

398 *Q.*—Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, Municipal Council, Negapatam, has recommended to the Government through the Collector of Tanjore the appointment of the civil surgeon of Negapatam as a municipal councillor;

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(*b*) whether in any of the municipalities in the Presidency the civil surgeon of the station has been appointed as a municipal councillor;

(*c*) whether the appointment of civil surgeons as municipal councillors is in consonance with section 29 of Madras Act V of 1920;

(*d*) whether any memorial has been received from the public of Negapatam protesting against the appointment of the civil surgeon as a municipal councillor; and

(*e*) whether any orders have been passed on the said memorial, and, if so, to what effect?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Mangalore, is a member of the local municipal council.

(*c*) The Government see no inconsistency.

(*d*) & (*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Raising of the Victoria College, Palghat, to a first-grade institution.

399 *Q.*—Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of G.O. No. 17 M., Mis., dated 12th January 1900, on the proposal of the Palghat Municipal Council to raise the Victoria College to the B.A. standard together with the report of the Inspector of Schools and the Collector of Malabar?

A.—A copy of G.O. No. 17 M., dated 12th January 1900, with a copy of the Director of Public Instruction's letter quoted therein and of the report of the Inspector of Schools on the proposal of the Palghat Municipal Council to raise the Victoria College to the first grade, is laid on the Council table.* The Collector made no comment in forwarding the council's proposal.

Malabar students in the Government first-grade colleges.

400 *Q.*—Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of students that belong to the Malabar district in the third and fourth year University classes in all the Government first-grade colleges in the Presidency?

A.—The Government are not in possession of the information, but will call for it.

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampan:—"With reference to the answer to question No. 400, I wish to know when the information will be made available to us?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro:—"No information has as yet reached us; as soon as it reaches Government, the hon. Member will come to know of it."

Disafforested lands in the Presidency.

401 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. Raja: Will the hon. the Home Member, he hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of land disafforested in the various districts of the Presidency for the last two years; and

(*b*) the extent of disafforested lands in acres set apart in the various districts for assignment to the members of depressed classes?

* Vide Appendix V on page 520 infra.